

## House Resolution 2040

By: Representatives Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Beasley-Teague of the 65<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Holmes of the 61<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Reverend E. Randel T. Osburn; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, for more than 35 years, Reverend E. Randel T. Osburn devoted his life to the  
3 pursuit of civil rights as a veteran of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC),  
4 the organization co-founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Osburn served under all six SCLC presidents – Dr. Martin Luther  
6 King, Jr., Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy, Reverend Joseph Lowery, Honorable Martin Luther  
7 King, III, Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, and Honorable Charles Steele, Jr.; and

8 WHEREAS, he served the SCLC in various capacities including national vice president and  
9 executive vice president/chief operating officer, and he was also executive director of the  
10 SCL Foundation, Inc.; and

11 WHEREAS, at the age of 17, Reverend Osburn was the youngest minister appointed by Dr.  
12 Martin Luther King, Jr., to serve on his original field staff; in the early 1960's, he was a  
13 leader of the student sit-in movement and was arrested and jailed 75 times; he was one of the  
14 first and one of the few black leaders to move into the forefront of the 1960's anti-war  
15 movement resulting in his arrest for protesting the war in Vietnam as early as 1965; and  
16 during his early years, he served as the director of SCLC's Operation Breadbasket in Ohio;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, as executive director of the SCLC, he was a tireless champion for continuing  
19 the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., helping to organize the Freedom Trains which  
20 taught thousands of students across the country "Kingian Nonviolence" and the principles  
21 of conflict resolution; co-sponsored hundreds of programs to help the youth in our country;  
22 was the primary coordinator for the National SCLC Conventions; and was the architect of  
23 many of the programs, initiatives, and projects of the SCLC and the Civil Rights Movement,

1 including the Stop the Killing-End the Violence Program, and the Gun Buy-Back Campaign  
2 that removed over 10,000 guns off the streets; and

3 WHEREAS, throughout his tenure of more than three decades, Reverend Osburn was a  
4 staunch advocate for women's rights, the rights of workers, economic empowerment, and  
5 prison reform, and he can be credited with providing leadership that led to many of the  
6 political gains in this country and insisted on teaching voter empowerment, voter registration,  
7 and voter education; and

8 WHEREAS, he was one of the key national organizers for the Million Man March, served  
9 as advisor and confidant to many in the Civil Rights Movement, including Mrs. Coretta Scott  
10 King, Mrs. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, III, and Mr. Dick Gregory, and his leadership  
11 brought about many international liaisons, including Prince Abdullah, the Crown Prince of  
12 Saudi Arabia, South African President Nelson Mandela, and leaders involved in the  
13 Tiananmen Square Demonstrations for Human Rights in China; and

14 WHEREAS, in the tradition of great preachers, Reverend Osburn has mesmerized audiences  
15 with his soul-searching message of nonviolence, peace, and activism at over 1,200 colleges,  
16 700 churches, and over 2,500 other groups, and the number of awards, certificates, and other  
17 honors from around the world would number in the thousands; and

18 WHEREAS, he is one of the few who have actually "walked the walk" as a living pioneer  
19 and warrior in the causes of peace and human rights, knew first-hand the real legacy of Dr.  
20 Martin Luther King, Jr., and continued to remain faithful and committed to living that legacy.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
22 the members of this body join together to honor the life of Reverend E. Randel T. Osburn for  
23 his exemplary service to his community, the state, and the nation, and express their most  
24 sincere condolences to his family and friends.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby  
26 authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of  
27 Reverend E. Randel T. Osburn.